

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 03123 101228Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 ACDA-10 MC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /092 W

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R 101130Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0809

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLAS CAIRO 3123

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EG, XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESS COMMENT ON US MILITARY SALES TO EGYPT

1. LOCAL DAILIES MARCH 10 CONTINUE HIGHLY-FAVORABLE COVERAGE OF ADMINISTRATION CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY SALES TO EGYPT BEGINNING WITH C-130S. PAPERS MARCH 10 MENTION SPECIFICALLY SUPPORT BY SENATOR MANSFIELD FOR SALES OF C-130S AND COMMENT THAT HIS SUPPORT OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. BOTH GUMHUYIYYA AND AKHBAR MARCH 10 CARRY FRONT-PAGE EDITORIALS PRAISING BOTH US DECISION ON MILITARY SALES AND STATEMANSHIP OF SADAT IN ACHIEVING BREAKTHROUGH.

2. BOTH MUHSIN MUHAMMAD IN GUMHURIYYA AND MUSA SABRI IN AKHBAR PRAISE FORD ADMINISTRATION FOR PUTTING PEACE IN MENA DNS UPPORT FOR EGYPT AHEAD OF ELECTORAL CONCERNS DURING PRESIDENTIAL YEAR. BOTH EDITORIALS STRESS FACT THAT US ARMS SALES TO EGYPT DO NOT ENTIAL REPUDIATION OF US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL, BUT RATHER REPRESENTS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICA, IN FACE OF SOVIET REFUSAL TO SUPPLY MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO EGYPT,
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 03123 101228Z

TO FURTHER US INTERESTS IN ME.

3. COMMENT: PRESS COVERAGE OF ARMS SALES ISSUE HAS, TO
DATE, BEEN EXTREMELY FAVORABLE TO FORD ADMINISTRATION AND,
ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITIES OF FUTURE SALES OF MORE LETHAL
EQUIPMENT THAN C-130S HAS BEEN RASIED, PAPERS DO NOT APPEAR
TO BE STAMPEDING INTO SPECUALTION THAT US HAS SUDDENTLY
DECIDED TO SUPPLY ALL OF EGYPT'S MILITARY NEEDS.
MAESTRONE

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